MUSEUM ACCESSIONS

White china teapot, with gold decorations—a wedding piece of William Czar Bradley, a Vermonter not so many of us are familiar with who starred in international relations. Born in Westminster in 1782, his most important public service came when he served on a commission of American and British statesmen to try and make peace during the War of 1812. Known as a jurist, wit, scholar and statesman, in a full and busy life, Bradley served his state and his country well.

Miss Martha E. Nye of San Diego, California, has donated her collection of the Nye family to the Society. Among the articles are a Bow china pitcher, which was taken from the family homestead in Berlin to Minnesota by Asahel Nye in 1858; a silver serving spoon, of the wedding outfit of Mrs. Asahel Nye; linen tablecloth, spun and woven by Sophia Nye, born 1822: died, 1855.

Civil War mementos, of John H. Hurley, of Northfield. Mr. Hurley was an expert marble carver, and was employed by the state to clean up the statue of Ethan Allen on the State House piazza after vandals had given it a coating of shoe polish. (Gift of Mrs. Minnie H. Hurley of Northfield).

Sabre and scabbard, which belonged to General William Wells, during the Civil War. General Wells was born in Waterbury. (Gift of Mrs. H. Nelson Jackson and Frank R. Wells of Burlington).

Early day by day record of weather, at Randolph Center with notations on snow falls,—"Thermometrical observations"—commenced on December 27, 1828 and includes remarks on crops, livestock, births and deaths of neighbors, town meetings and discontinued on November 26, 1863, upon death of author William Nutting, first principal of Orange County Grammar School.

VERMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY STATE HOUSE MONTPELIER

Leon S. Gay, President; Earle W. Newton, Director.

Telephone: Montpelier 1500, Extension 39.

VHS *News and Notes*

VERMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Montpelier, Vermont

Sec. 34.66
P. L. & R.

VHS *News and Notes*

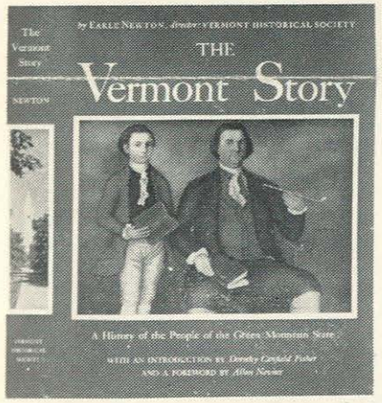
A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER ISSUED BY THE VERMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 1 DECEMBER, 1949 NUMBER 4

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

With Christmas just around the corner, and many of us pondering over last minute gifts, let us not overlook the fine books recently published by your Society. Here are some of the latest:

The Vermont Story, by Earle W. Newton, is the first full-length history of the people of the Green Mountain State, with nearly two hundred reproductions in full color of famous paintings, historic sites, old maps as well as several hundred drawings and photographs. You are presented a colorful pageant of Vermont, from its beginnings to the present (1749-1949) — good for children and adults alike. $7.50.



Here are a few excerpts from the reviews and editorials its publication evoked:

Portland Oregonian: "The first volume of a series on the forty-eight states has made its appearance as the *Vermont Story* . . . If the series can maintain the standard set by this first book, then it will be an achievement of the front rank in the field of popular — and illustrated — history. . . It is hard to believe that they could have had a finer volume — even with the State of Oregon for the subject."

Hartford, Conn., *Courant:* " . . . It is not only a new book but a new kind of book. It combines the advantages of professional research and scholarship with *Life* magazine at its best. Because of Connecticut's part in founding and developing the Green Mountain State, it should be of particular interest here . . . "

Burlington Daily News: " . . . every true son of Vermont whether native or adopted will find this book to be worth any dozen other books on the best-seller lists."

New York Herald Tribune: " . . . The idea of the series was to present an authentic state history that was also readable, in striking contrast to the great majority of state histories produced in the past . . . If the other forty-seven states

can hold to the standard set by this volume, then the series will be a notable one indeed."

And there are many more . . .

Or you may prefer the *Growth of Vermont* Series — a history of the state in ten volumes:

Volume IV. *Vermont in Quandary,* 1760-1829, by Chilton Williamson gives the inside story of the famous negotiations conducted by Ira Allen to attach Vermont to Canada. $4.50

Volume V. *Migration from Vermont* by Lewis D. Stilwell is a comprehensive study of about 8000 Vermonters who left their state in earlier years. $3.00

Volume VI. *Social Ferment in Vermont,* 1791-1850, by David M. Ludlum is a careful and intelligent analysis of social unrest preceding the Civil War.

Dr. Frederick C. Waite's second book, *The First Medical College in Vermont,* 1818--1862, is a complete history of Castleton Medical College and completes the story of medical colleges in Vermont. $5.00

Dake of Castleton by Herbert Wheaton Congdon, the last publication of the Society, is a study of Vermont's "most brilliant practitioner" of architecture and probably least known — Thomas R. Dake — and has illustrations of early Vermont structures, both exterior and interior. $1.50

All of these, except *The Vermont Story,* are offered to members at this time at a 20% discount. Send your orders to V. H. S. headquarters in Montpelier and we will mail your gifts, direct. And we can suit our billing to your convenience, too.

AMERICAN HERITAGE

Just to remind you of this quarterly, a new national magazine of history, *American Heritage,* at $3.00 a year. We have had special gift cards made up and can take care of your orders for Xmas.

RADIO PROGRAM, THIS IS VERMONT

This season's weekly fifteen-minute radio program opened on November 16th with a broadcast from Waterbury, WDEV. Presented by the Society at 8:30 each Wednesday evening over WDEV, it is a dramatization with cast and music of little-known stories and legends of Vermont. The Waterbury program is sponsored by the Capital Savings Bank in Montpelier. It is rebroadcast at Claremont, N. H., WTSV, on Sunday at 2:15 P. M., sponsored by the Windsor (Vt.) County National Bank. We are negotiating for sponsors at St. Albans, Rutland and Brattleboro and hope that we can give you listening times in the next issue. Burlington WCAX will carry a second series a little later.

A special Christmas broadcast will be made for us by a portion of the Vermont Symphony Orchestra on the 21st. We only wish you all could hear it.

OUR DIRECTOR RESIGNS

President Leon S. Gay has announced the resignation of Earle W. Newton, who will assume the directorship of Old Sturbridge Village, a restored New England village and museum, at Sturbridge, Massachusetts. There are great possibilities at the Village and Mr. Newton hopes to make it to New England what Williamsburg has become to Virginia. We in Vermont will lose him on May 15, although he will begin some work at Sturbridge after the first of the year. Let us hope that something more attractive may recall him to Vermont in the not too distant future.

John H. McDill of Woodstock has been appointed chairman of a committee to select a successor. Other members of the committee are Arthur W. Peach of Northfield, Vrest Orton of Weston, Samuel R. Ogden of Landgrove, and John P. Clement of Rutland.

There is no question that our loss is Sturbridge's gain. Our congratulations, Mr. Newton, and our best wishes go with you as you move on to Sturbridge.

LIGHT ON OLD LAMPS

Mrs. Guy Horton, a very active member of the Society, has arranged another new display here at the Museum. It tells the fascinating story of lighting as it unfolded in Vermont, from early Rockingham candlesticks (Bennington, Vt.) to the present day fluorescent lights.

Of especial interest are the two ornate kerosene lamps, which were purchased by Mrs. Horton's aunt and mother in the fall of 1870 at Brandon. So attracted were the young brides to the lamps that one worked in a dressmaking shop and the other in a tailoring shop in order to purchase them as a surprise to their husbands.

The first incandescent light in the city of Rutland, Thomas A. Edison's first invention, which was owned by Mrs. Horton's father and brought to Vermont in 1880 for experimentation in Dr. Goldsmith's office, may be seen and a replica of Edison's first lamp put out for general use, the "miracle of 1879", recaptures for us the spirit of a by gone day.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

We are reprinting the editorial carried by the Barre Daily Times on November 18th, with regard to our membership drive. It is good to have this support:

"New energy seems to have been injected into the Vermont Historical Society of late. One of the indications of that energy is the printing, monthly, of the *VHS News and Notes.* One purpose of the Historical Society is to increase its membership from 814 at the present time to 1,000 by December 31 of the same year. That increase should be possible, although th etime is short. The current *VHS News and Notes* is Vol. 1, No. 3. It is a welcome addition to our grist of mail."

Thank you, each of you, who sent in nominations for new members. Our total is now 859. Our goal is still 1000 — but memberships are coming in every

day. If you have more proposals, send them in and we will follow through immediately with invitation certificates.

Thank you, again — and our very best wishes for a very Merry Christmas!

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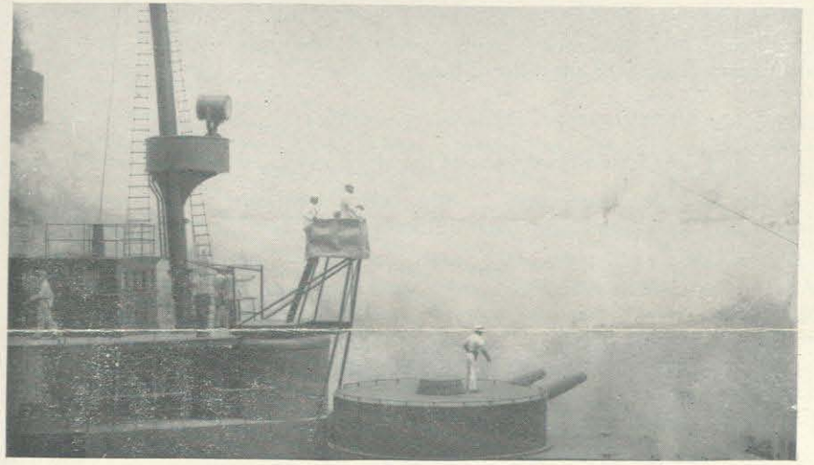

GREEN MOUNTAIN ADMIRAL

The Society's second Dewey Memorial diorama will be set up in your Museum the latter part of this month. It depicts State Street of Montpelier in the year 1837 — the birthplace of George Dewey, who led the United States Navy in 1898 to its victory over the Spanish Fleet in Manila Bay without the loss of a single life. In front of the small shingled house stands Dr. Julius Y. Dewey, father of Admiral Dewey, who in 1850 virtually gave up the practice of medicine to become the second president and generally conceded founder of the National Life Insurance Company of Montpelier.

Opposite Dewey's birthplace stands Vermont's second state house, which burned in 1857 and was quite similar to the present state house. (Incidently, Dewey's birthplace was on the site of the new state office building, just completed.)

Shown is an illustration of the Society's first diorama, a memorial to Admiral Dewey, which was dedicated in May, 1948, 50 years from the day that the Spanish fleet was destroyed. Both dioramas were made by the Pitman Studio of Cam-